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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

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SUBJECT Military Activities in the Zossen Area

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report on the Zossen area which gives information on the following: (1) Loading and unloading of T-34/85's and other equipment, and (2) A Soviet camp observed south of the village of Zesch.

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Military/Air

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Activity in the ZOSSEN Area(7.8.56 - 28.8.56)

1. Activities observed in the ZOSSEN area are listed below:-

(a) 7.8.56

3 T34/85 tanks were unloaded at the WUENSDORF station for the AFV repair workshop.

(b) 7.8.56

2 T34/85 tanks were loaded on to flats at the WUENSDORF station. They were being sent to JUTERBOG.

(c) 10.8.56

The following equipment was unloaded at the WUENSDORF station:-

8 ZIS 151 box [] equipped as mobile workshops.

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3 ZIS 150 box []

1 ZIS 151 with box-trailer. The trailer had 2 axles and was twin-wheeled. Mounted on the trailer was a basket-shaped aerial array.

After unloading these vehicles drove to DABENDORF where they turned off the main road and proceeded westwards using tracks through the fields.

(d) 14.8.56

The following vehicles were seen driving from the banks of the WUENSDORFERSEE near NEUHOF through SPERENBERG to the HEEGESEE:

3 ZIS 5 [] each fitted with 2 [] tanks with a capacity of approx. 1000 litres.

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1 tracked amphibian with pontoon shaped body.

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(e) 15.8.56

(i) A Soviet camp was observed just south of the village of ZESCH. The boundaries of the camp appeared to be:

To the NORTH - GROSSER ZESCHSEE

To the WEST - Main Road No. 96

To the SOUTH - The Northern edge of the village of RADELAND.

To the EAST - Estimated as a line approx. 6 Kms. East of the main road No. 96.

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(e) (ii) An aluminium water supply pipeline runs from the southern bank of the GROSSE ZESCHSEE in a southerly direction for approx. 1.2 Kms. This pipeline is laid in sections each measuring 2.5 metres with a diameter of 15 cms. On the bank of the GROSSER ZESCHSEE there is a water pump.

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(iii) Between the GROSSER ZESCHSEE and the village of ZESCH the following equipment was seen:-

12 tents each capable of housing 40 troops.

4 Field kitchens

4 ZIS 151

15 Diesel (type not known)

Troops seen in the area wore red shoulder boards.

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(iv) Approx. 1000 metres south of the GROSSE ZESCHSEE 4 large tents were seen standing side by side. Each tent was capable of housing 4 tanks and it was noticed that the tents were being used as repair shops. At the time of observation the following equipment was seen:-

2 T34/85 tanks with turrets and armament dismantled were in one of the tents. The turrets and guns were lying in another tent.

2 JS 3 }
1 T54 } parked near the tents.

Approx. 200 troops with black shoulder boards and armoured insignia were seen in the area. Small 6 - 8 man tents were in evidence and 30 mobile workshops were parked in the area.

(v) Approx. 600 metres to the East of the GROSSER ZESCHSEE 35 W/T trucks (GAZ 51 and GAZ 63) were parked together with 2 2-wheeled carts each with a 15 metres whip aerial.

(f) 20.8.56

4 tracked tractors each towing a 100 mm A/A gun drove from the main camp at ZOSSEN to the Artillery barracks.

(g) 22.8.56

2 tracked tractors were seen driving from WUENSDORF to REHAGEN (Artillery barracks). Each tractor was towing 2 box-trailers 2-axled and with twin wheels. The tops of these box-trailers were covered with tarpaulin.

(h) 23.8.56.

3 GAZ 51 loaded with ammunition cases travelled from TOPCHIN to BARUTH.

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(i) 24.8.56

At the SPERENBERG railway station 4 6-axled 15 metre flats were switched on to the branch line to HEGESE. Each flat carried an AFV with gun, but the whole was covered with tarpaulin and no identification was possible.

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(j) 27.8.56

8 T34/85 tanks were unloaded at the WUENS DORF station for the AFV Repair Depot.

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(k) 28.8.56

2 ZIS 150 each towing a ZPU 4 drove from WUENS DORF to REHAGEN (Artillery barracks) via KLAUS DORF.

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(l) 28.8.56

6 ZIS 150 each towing a 7.62 cm Field gun Mod 36 drove from WUENS DORF through KLAUS DORF to REHAGEN and thence across country in the direction of the artillery range at KUMMERS DORF.

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